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**BOARD OF REGENTS**  
*P. O. Box 3677*  
*Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677*  
*Phone (225) 342-4253, FAX (225) 342-9318*  
*www.regents.state.la.us*

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Contact: Kevin Hardy

### **Louisiana's Improved NAEP Mathematics Scores Attributed To LaSIP Program**

Improved mathematics scores for Louisiana students on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) are a direct result of Louisiana's Systemic Initiatives Program (LaSIP), according to Dr. Richard D. Anderson, LSU Boyd Professor Emeritus of Mathematics and Senior Adviser to LaSIP. Anderson gave credit to LaSIP for the NAEP performance improvements today in a presentation at the regular monthly meeting of the Louisiana Board of Regents in Baton Rouge.

Dr. Anderson presented NAEP score data for fourth- and eighth-graders for the period from 1992 to 2003 (since the introduction of LaSIP). The data compared Louisiana's average NAEP scores to the national average for each year.

"The data clearly shows that from 1992 to 2003 Louisiana is consistently narrowing the gap at both grade levels in mathematics, from 15 points to 8 points for grade 4, and from 17 points to 10 points for grade 8," Dr. Anderson said. "Since LaSIP and its offshoots have been the primary change agents in mathematics, it is significant that NAEP student mathematics test results have improved so impressively over time."

LaSIP was created in 1991 with a grant from the National Science Foundation and has received additional funding through the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The program provides professional development and leadership training for middle-school teachers statewide in an effort to improve the quality of math and science education in Louisiana. The more than 7,800 Louisiana teachers who have participated in the program are currently impacting more than 350,000 Louisiana students at 1,300 schools each year.

"It's very gratifying for LaSIP to receive this kind of validation," said Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Savoie. "The success of this program is a great example of what our kids can accomplish when they receive quality instruction. I congratulate [LaSIP Director] Dr. Kerry Davidson and everyone involved with LaSIP for their efforts in helping ensure that our students are taught by highly-qualified teachers."

"The LaSIP approach has been based on what the most respected research and, quite

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frankly, common sense tells us - that enhanced concept-based competencies for teachers is a pivotal key to elevate student learning,” said Dr. Kerry Davidson, LaSIP Project Director. “Louisiana is fortunate that the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, the governor and the legislature have all provided sustained support for this effort.”

In other Board of Regents news, a **joint BESE/Board of Regents meeting will be held Thursday, December 11, beginning at 8:30 a.m., in the Louisiana Purchase Room of the Claiborne Building. Governor-elect Kathleen Blanco is expected to address the meeting regarding her education agenda.**

The joint meeting will be followed at 10:30 by the full Board of Regents meeting, in the Thomas Jefferson Room of the Claiborne Building (Room 136, Suites A, B, C).

- 30 -